

# Scholar, professor, makes time for canvas

By Erinn Hutkin

Despite teaching art history, humanities and English and writing scholarly books and articles on art history and culture, Sharon Worley produces a body of artwork that she says is “annually consistent with a full-time artist.”

She creates original paintings that she sells through her website, [www.sharonworleypaintings.com](http://www.sharonworleypaintings.com).

A portion of her work is inspired by the environmental movement. Overall, she creates abstract and impressionistic seascapes and landscapes that are largely inspired by nature and late 19th-century and early 20th-century art styles.

For instance, she said her recent series of paintings, “Global Currents 2010” and “Genesis I-III

## ABOUT SHARON WORLEY

**AGE:** 54

**OCCUPATION:** Adjunct instructor of art history, humanities and English at HCCS.edu, UHD.edu and Lonestar.edu

**COMMUNITY CONNECTION:** Lives in Kingwood

**FAST FACT:** Loves tennis, aerobics, biking and travel

2013,” aims to stimulate “creative thought about the environmental crises caused by the depletion of the ozone layer and chemical pollutants.”

She said the series was inspired by the effects of Hurricane Ike in Galveston Bay and the British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The titles of the paintings, she said, “suggest the tradition of scientific and mythical voyages of Charles Darwin aboard the Beagle, and Odysseus’ voyages terminating at Ithaca, and Jason and the Argonauts.”

“Science, myth and art combine to increase public awareness through education,” she said. “We

must question whether our decisions made from the perspective of a child’s game will terminate in future flirtations with catastrophe.”

Worley said she’s practically a lifelong artist, starting when she was 10 years old, earning a scholarship to the Columbus School of Art and Design when she was in fifth grade.

Today, she still enjoys the creativity of art. She said her most memorable recent piece was called “Global Currents,” a work that consisted of four 36-by-72-inch “environmentally-conscious” panels that de-

picted ocean currents. They were shown as part of a solo exhibition at the Houston Public Library’s McKinney branch in 2010.

This year and last, she said she painted two series of canvases depicting volcanoes, work that was based on trips she took to Naples, Italy, and Honolulu.

While she still thrives on the creativity that comes with painting, she said the biggest challenge is sales.

Sadly, she said her longtime gallery director, Heidi Powell-Prera, had to close her H-Gallery on 19th Street last year (it opened as a co-op in 2005) as a result of the “impact of the global financial crisis.”

Otherwise, she said she’s been exhibiting with local art leagues such as the Lake Houston Area Art League and the Green House Gallery. She said she’s showing this sum-



Contributed photo

**Sharon Worley’s art is inspired by the environment.**

mer at the Galveston Art League.

When she’s not busy behind a canvas, Worley said she enjoys spending time with her daughters. She and her oldest daughters are visiting the Mendocino Art Colony this

summer near San Francisco, while she and her younger daughter plan to invest in a kayak and boat around Lake Houston.

*Erinn Hutkin is a freelance writer. She can be reached at [neighborhoods@chron.com](mailto:neighborhoods@chron.com).*

## VOLUNTEERING

### By Volunteer Houston

Here are the latest local volunteer opportunities through Volunteer Houston, a nonprofit group that helps match volunteers and organizations throughout the area.

### Hospital needs help at info desk, waiting areas

Information desk and waiting area volunteers are needed at a large nonprofit hospital in Humble. Depending on your choice of assignments, duties can include greeting visitors, providing directions, recording family informa-

tion, assisting with visits, extending moral support to patients’ loved ones and generally serving as a liaison to patient care areas. Weekly duty shifts are available between weekday mornings and afternoons. Parking is free.

### Raise a puppy to become guide dog for the blind

Raise a puppy for an organization that assigns guide dogs to visually impaired people. In-depth training will equip you to care for and teach a puppy that will eventually become a companion to someone in need of

the dog’s services. This assignment calls for responsible volunteers willing to integrate the dog thoroughly into their family lives and daily routines. The length of commitment varies but is typically in the range of 12 to 18 months.

### Be a friend to women battling substance abuse

New beginnings are achieved for women overcoming substance abuse problems at a special county correctional facility in Atascocita. Female volunteers play vital roles in this process by

befriending and supporting these women through semi-monthly one-hour visits, telephone contact, letters and participation in workshops. Volunteer should be at least 21 years of age and willing to commit to a one year involvement. Comprehensive training is provided.

### Nature center seeks experienced grant writers

Grant writers are wanted to help support the work of a nature center in Humble. If you have good writing skills and some experience in this method of fundraising, consider

### How to help

Volunteer Houston features a variety of local volunteer opportunities in the community. For more information, call 713-965-0031 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. **Additional opportunities:** [www.volunteerhouston.org](http://www.volunteerhouston.org)

applying your talents to develop proposals for submittal to charitable foundations and other possible funding sources. This responsible assignment would involve a commitment of about four hours a week, on weekdays or weekends.

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